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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

15 September 1950

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Korean Situation

I. Military Situation

Summary

Following two days of preparatory bombardment by UN naval forces, elements of the US 1st Marine Division landed on Wolmi-do, an island in Inchon harbor, early in the morning of 15 September, Korean time (late in the afternoon of 14 September, EST). On the next high tide, US Marines landed in Inchon city. Initial enemy opposition has been light. Meanwhile, ROK units, also supported by UN naval bombardment landed on the east coast north of Pohang. In southeast Korea there was little change in the front lines.

Ground

Inchon Area: Element of the US 1st Marine Division, US Army Tenth Corps, secured the island of Wolmi-do in Inchon harbor with a minimum of casualties in only an hour and a half. The enemy appeared to have been taken by surprise, and 80 North Koreans, who were reported to have surrendered willingly, were taken prisoner. Late in the afternoon of 15 September, Korean time, additional landings by Marine units were made on the beach of Inchon city. Light enemy opposition on the beachhead was rapidly overcome.

Southeast Korea: Enemy patrols were active along the southern sector west of Haman and in the Nakdong bridgehead west of Yongsan and Changyong, but there was no significant change in the front lines. In the Taegu area of the center sector, elements of the US 1st Cavalry Division made slight gains and secured favorable terrain features along the front. Northeast of Taegu elements of the ROK 1st Division captured a hill position two miles east of the walled city on Kusan mountain. In the east sector, UN elements have continued their slow advance, and now control the town of Angang and the secondary road from Angang to Yongchon. Press reports indicate that a landing by ROK units has been made north of Pohang on the east coast, probably in the Yongdok area.

Navy

UN naval units and carrier based aircraft completed two days preparatory bombardment of defensive installations in the Inchon

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area and gave intensive support to landing operations by the US 1st Marine Division. Other carrier-based aircraft patrolled the west coast from Mokpo to Kunsan, and the Yellow Sea north of Inchon. Enemy defenses on the southern extremity of the Ongjin Peninsula at Tungsan-got were shelled by UN surface craft. UN naval units also continued to provide gunfire support for ground units in the Pohang and Masan areas.

Air

Improved weather permitted an increase in air operations. The interdiction of enemy supply routes north of the 38th parallel was stepped-up with medium and light bombers attacking the main rail line between Pyongyang and the Yalu River.

II. General Situation

Radio Pyongyang reaction to UN landings at Inchon was prompt. Prior to any official UN announcement of the landings, the North Korean radio claimed that North Korean forces had repulsed a landing and that shore batteries shelled UN warships, sinking three destroyers, four landing craft and other vessels. Somewhat later, US 8th Army Headquarters in Korea picked up a Pyongyang broadcast acknowledging the invasion at Inchon, and stating that UN forces had advanced half the 22 miles inland to Seoul.

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